

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 05748

FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL BARNES FROM AMBASSADOR LUCEY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, APER, ABUD
SUBJECT: PIT "PARA-CONSULAR ASSISTANTS"

REF: MEMO FROM MR. HENNEMEYER TO AMBASSADOR BARNES

1. THIS IS PERSONALLY TO ASK YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR PROPOSAL FOR "PARA-CONSULAR" PIT PERSONNEL CONTAINED IN MR. HENNEMEYER'S MEMORANDUM TO YOU OF MARCH 8. ITS PURPOSE IS TO HELP US MEET OUR STATUTORY IMMIGRANT VISA RESPONSIBILITY, INCLUDING THE "CUBAN NUMBERS" PROGRAM, WITHOUT A FURTHER OFFICER STAFFING INCREASE OVER THAT ALREADY AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

2. THE TASK WE FACE IS AS FOLLOWS. COUNTRY-WIDE, WE MUST ISSUE FOR THE NEXT 2 1/2 YEARS APPROXIMATELY 83,200 IMMIGRANT VISAS (IV'S) A YEAR, BROKEN DOWN THUS: (A) 43,200 "CUBAN NUMBERS" TO COMPLY WITH THE SILVA V. LEVI COURT ORDER BY AUGUST 1980; (B) ALL 20,000 OF THE MAXIMUM PERMITTED ANNUALLY TO MEXICAN-BORN APPLICANTS UNDER THE COUNTRY NUMERICAL LIMITATION, SINCE DEMAND IN MEXICO FAR
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EXCEEDS AVAILABLE NUMBERS, AND (C) APPROXIMATELY 20,000 MORE "IMMEDIATE RELATIVE" IV'S NOT SUBJECT TO NUMERICAL LIMITS.

3. TO DATE, WE HAVE ISSUED CLOSE TO THE MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 3600 IV'S REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH SILVA V. LEVI AND HAVE ALSO REMAINED CURRENT ON IMMEDIATE RELATIVE CASES,

THROUGH USE OF A COMBINATION OF REGULAR IV OFFICERS PLUS RETIRED OFFICERS AVAILABLE ON A SPORADIC BASIS UNDER SHORT TERM RECALL APPOINTMENTS. THESE SAME RESOURCES HAVE ALSO ALLOWED US TO HANDLE THE BRIEF CHRISTMAS AND EASTER NONIMMIGRANT VISA (NIV) PEAK SEASONS.

4. THIS HAS BEEN AT THE EXPENSE OF ISSUANCES UNDER THE 20,000 COUNTRY LIMITATION, AND IN ADDITION WE NOW FACE THE PROTRACTED (MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER) SUMMER NONIMMIGRANT VISA PEAK WORKLOAD PERIOD. TO MEET NIV DEMAND, WE MUST DIVERT CROSS-TRAINED OFFICERS NOW DOING IV'S TO NIV'S. UNLESS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ARE FOUND, PRODUCTION OF COUNTRY-LIMITATION IV'S WILL THEREFORE FALL EVEN FURTHER BEHIND, THEREBY EXPOSING THE DEPARTMENT TO PROBABLE FURTHER LEGAL ACTIONS FOR FAILING TO ISSUE ALL IV'S AUTHORIZED BY LAW. TWELVE SUPPLEMENTARY VISA OFFICER POSITIONS HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO MEET THE CUBAN PROGRAM AND TO FREE VISA OFFICERS FOR ISSUANCE OF MEXICO'S 20,000 LIMITATION, BUT THE FIRST OF THESE IS NOT DUE IN COUNTRY UNTIL MAY AND IT MAY TAKE UNTIL OCTOBER TO FILL ALL OF THESE POSITIONS. MEANWHILE WE MUST FIND AN INTERIM SOLUTION.

5. OUR PROPOSAL IS TO MAINTAIN VISA OFFICER RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR IV'S DURING PEAK NIV PERIODS THROUGH USE OF THE PROPOSED "PARA-CONSULAR ASSISTANTS" (PCA'S). THESE WOULD BE SPANISH-SPEAKING AMERICAN-CITIZEN DEPENDENTS (OF UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES STATIONED IN MEXICO) WHO POSSESS EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUNDS AND EXPERIENCE QUALIFICATIONS WHICH WOULD ALLOW THEM TO PERFORM CERTAIN TASKS NOW PERFORMED BY NIV OFFICERS. THEY WOULD THUS RELEASE THE OFFICERS FOR PART-TIME IV WORK, AND THEREBY ALLOW US TO MAINTAIN THE NECESSARY RATE OF IV PRODUCTION DURING PEAK PERIODS. SUCH PCA APPOINTMENTS WOULD TERMINATE WITH THE END OF PEAK SEASONS.

6. SPECIFICALLY, PCA'S WOULD BE UTILIZED IN A MANNER INDICATED BY THEIR TITLE, WHICH IS SUGGESTED BY EXPERIENCE IN THE MEDICAL AND LEGAL FIELDS (THE TERM IS OUR OWN LOCAL COINAGE - WE ARE OPEN TO ALTERNATE TERMINOLOGY IF IT CAUSES PROBLEMS). UTILIZING PREVIOUS TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE (SUCH AS FOREIGN SERVICE, SOCIAL, OR LEGAL CASE WORK), THE PROPOSED PCA'S WOULD PERFORM CERTAIN PREPROCESSING TASKS REQUIRING THE EXERCISE OF JUDGMENT AND WHICH ARE NOW PERFORMED BY OFFICERS.

7. THEIR PRINCIPAL TASK WOULD BE PRE-SCREENING NIV APPLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED BY TRAVEL AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUAL NIV APPLICANTS, PARTICULARLY IN REVALIDATION

CASES. PCA'S WOULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ADJUDICATE APPLICATIONS OR EVEN APPEAR TO DO SO; A CONSULAR OFFICER WOULD CONTINUE MAKING ALL DECISIONS TO REFUSE OR ISSUE A VISA. PCA'S MIGHT ALSO BE USED ELSEWHERE, FOR EXAMPLE, IN ASSISTING IV APPLICANTS IN ASSEMBLING DOCUMENTATION BEFORE INTERVIEW WITH A CONSULAR OFFICER. BUT FOR NOW WE WOULD PLAN TO CONCENTRATE PCA'S IN NIV UNITS, BECAUSE THAT UTILIZATION WOULD PROVIDE THE LARGEST RETURN ON THE INVESTMENT.

8. IN ORDER TO ATTRACT THE QUALITY OF APPLICANTS ENVISAGED, WE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO OFFER PCA'S A HIGHER GRADE

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FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL BARNES FROM AMBASSADOR LUCEY

THAN THE FSS-10/1 WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY OFFERED PIT EMPLOYEES IN BASICALLY CLERICAL ASSIGNMENTS. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, REQUEST AUTHORITY TO HIRE AT AS HIGH AS FSS-7/1, DEPENDING ON QUALIFICATION. THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY AUTHORIZED 46 CLERICAL-LEVEL PIT POSITIONS THROUGH FY-80 IN SUPPORT OF THE CUBAN NUMBERS PROGRAM, AND THESE POSITIONS HAVE NOW BEEN FILLED. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PCA PROGRAM WOULD, THEREFORE, REQUIRE UP TO 9 ADDITIONAL PIT POSITIONS OVER AND ABOVE THE 46.

9. WE ALSO SEE THIS PROPOSAL AS DOVETAILING NEATLY WITH ANOTHER NEED OF CURRENT HIGH INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT. IT COULD OFFER SHORT-TERM PROFESSIONAL-LEVEL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OVERSEAS TO HIGHLY-QUALIFIED DEPENDENTS, WITHOUT IMPAIRING EITHER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OR THE ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF CAREER PERSONNEL. THE PRO-

POSED PCA PROGRAM ALSO FALLS READILY WITHIN THE EXISTING
PIT PROGRAM, WHICH HAS BEEN DEMONSTRABLY SUCCESSFUL AS A
MEANS OF MEETING SEASONAL NEEDS WITHOUT SWELLING THE
DEPARTMENT'S PERMANENT ROLLS.

10. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF OUR
PROPOSAL AND WOULD VALUE YOUR SUPPORT.

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